

LETTERS †

Concerning California Institutes on Wartime Industrial Health

(COPY)

ROBERT T. LEGGE, M. D.
Berkeley, California

Nov. 27, 1942.

Dear Doctor Kress:

As Chairman of the recently held Institutes on Wartime Industrial Health, I desire to thank you for the personal interest you have taken in these Institutes, the advice rendered, the great publicity, and the publication of the papers in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. It was a timely and a constructive contribution of the California Medical Association. I also read with much interest the editorials in the October number of the Proposed Section on Preventive and Industrial Medicine and Public Health. I am sure it will please the members of our profession who are in public life engaged in these fields.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) ROBERT T. LEGGE, M. D.

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San Francisco, December 1, 1942.

To the Editor:—With respect to the California Industrial Hygiene Institutes, I think we have hit upon a pattern here which can be used to great advantage for the physicians in this State. As soon as opportunity presents, I hope we can get together on similar programs in the near future.

I am keenly interested in the suggestion that we make a greater welcome for the public health physicians of the State in the California Medical Association. Please count on me for any assistance you may wish to further this splendid idea.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) W. P. SHEPARD, M. D.

Concerning Social Hygiene Day: February 3, 1943

To the Editor:—Social Hygiene Day will take its battle stations throughout the country as in former years, despite the gasoline and rubber restrictions which are in force this year. Doctor Walter Clarke, Executive Director of the American Social Hygiene Association, in announcing the annual observance scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, 1943, said that this battle on the home front against venereal disease is nation-wide and does not depend upon transportation to rally its fighting forces.

Syphilis and gonorrhea are enemies which threaten us at home. They disable our men at the front, but their roots are on the home front.

During the first World War, there were 157,146 more new cases of syphilis and gonorrhea among United States soldiers, sailors and marines, Doctor Clarke explained, than there were wounds in battles. Total absences from duty due to this infection kept the equivalent of 20,600 men out of the fighting for a whole year, men trained for their country's service, men upon whom their country counted for its defense.

In terms of today's hard held fronts such a loss would mean the equivalent of the personnel required to man five huge aircraft carriers and nine destroyers. No axis enemy could be more destructive than this enemy whom we must defeat on health battle fronts within our own country. We do not need to suffer this loss and do not

need gas and tires to meet that enemy and to destroy him. We have the scientific weapons to prevent the spread of the venereal diseases. In war time the principal function of social hygiene organizations everywhere is to persuade every community to use these weapons effectively. Intelligent cooperation among the health and welfare agencies in every city and town will help stamp out venereal disease and thus help our armed forces to bring us victory on the battle fronts.

(Signed) AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION.

Concerning B.M.I. Hospital at Las Vegas: F. E. Clough, M. D., Formerly of San Bernardino, in Charge

To the Editor:—In the B.M.I. Hospital, we aim:

To give to its patients the best medical care;

To do everything which will return the patient to health with the utmost expedition;

To do these things in the spirit of kindly, wholehearted personal service.

With these words emblazoned on a plaque, the new B.M.I. Hospital was opened for service Sunday, after a dedication ceremony in which patriotism, medical ethics, and the concern of modern industry for the welfare of its employees featured a simple, impressive ceremony.

The new hospital of "Basic Magnesium," at Las Vegas, though erected primarily to take care of accidents to employees and provide medical service for them, will also be open to families of project employees when need arises and, of course, only when space is available. Charges for these services will be commensurate with services performed, and will conform to rates prevailing in this locality. Physicians on the staff, making calls on patients, will also charge in accordance with rates governing in this area.

Relatively New in Industry

The big and important thing about the new hospital is that it represents something relatively new in American industry. Embodied in its physical structure and the apparatus and equipment which it houses, the hospital is a monument to the insistence of modern industry that the health and safety of employees is of vital importance.

Equipment the Latest

No industrial hospital in the world is better equipped to give high type hospital and medical service. In all departments the very latest equipment evolved by medical science has been installed. No pains and no money has been spared to guarantee that men and women on this project will have the best.

Very truly,

F. E. CLOUGH, M. D.

N. F. Sprague, D.O., Given U. C. Regent Post

Sacramento, Nov. 10—Gov. Culbert L. Olson today appointed Dr. Norman Frederick Sprague, Los Angeles osteopathic physician, to the board of regents of the University of California to fill the unexpired term of the late Garrett McNerny, San Francisco.

Dr. Sprague is managing director of the Wilshire hospital of Los Angeles, a member of the State board of health, and was appointed by Olson as a surgeon of Statewide reputation. His appointment, the first "lame duck" appointment made by Olson since his defeat for reelection, runs until March 1, 1952.—San Bernardino Sun, November 11.

Births Going Up

Birth statistics of the United States for 1941 reveal a birth rate of 18.8 against 17.9 the preceding year; a total of more than 2,500,000 babies born (greatest number since 1921's 2,600,000); and that births exceeded deaths by 1,090,000.—San Francisco News, December 7.

† CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE does not hold itself responsible for views expressed in articles or letters when signed by the author.